

MEETING OF  
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, April 17, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman  
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman  
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer  
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary  
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC  
Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture  
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer  
Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman

Absent: Mr. Robert Emerson.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Ashley Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Bill Powers (New Castle County Sixth District Councilman), and Ms. Kay Bothell.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**I. Current Situation Report:**

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,116 farms in preservation districts totaling 157,693 acres, with a total of 755 farms under agricultural easements totaling 111,017 acres at a cost of \$198,975,428. For PDR 18, there are a total of 107 farms, comprising 10,164 acres, with a value of \$59,747,386. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 10 Young Farmers program loans which have settled, with an easement value of \$3,878,524. For the second Young Farmers round there are four settlements pending comprising 321 acres at an easement value of \$843,776. Fifty-one prequalification applications have been received so far with only three being unapproved.

**II. Young Farmers Report**

Austin Short informed the Board that he would be discussing the third Young Farmers round properties further into the meeting under the listing for it in the agenda.

**III. Monitoring Report:**

Milton Melendez informed the Board that there would be no report this meeting as the Federal properties were still being processed. A monitoring report would be delivered at the May Foundation meeting.

**IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sales):**

1. Railroad Farm Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District, ID#S-13-03-028T After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Railroad Farm Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. PEI Isaacs B. Farm Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District, ID#S-13-03-028S. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, the PEI Isaacs B Farm Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

**V. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:**

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee previously waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

**VI. Public Comments:**

No public comments were received.

**VII. Minutes:**

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the March 20, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the March minutes, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

**VIII. Financial Highlights:**

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of March 31, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of March 31, 2013, \$ 30,418.09 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$13.34, and license plate monies received in March totaled \$560. Expenditures for the month of March totaled \$26,935.96. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept the March financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

Austin Short informed the Board that the Foundation has received \$990.00 in license plate money and a press release is scheduled when we reach the \$1,000.00 mark.

Howard Mesick let the Board know about the Friday meeting schedule with the State auditors. No Federal audit will be held this year.

**IX. Executive Session:**

Mr. Austin Short indicated that there was a need for an Executive Session. **William Vanderwende moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.** The Executive Session started 8:45 a.m.

The Executive Session ended at 9:29 a.m. **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to go out of Executive Session, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

**X. Young Farmers Program – Round 3 Applications:**

Discussion centered on Round 3 applications for the Young Farmers program. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept seven of the Young Farmers loan applications for approval. One loan application, the Bonniwell application, is to be deferred for further review. Motion seconded by Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

**XI. Other Business:**

Chairman Garey informed the Board that he had a meeting with the New Castle County Farm Bureau concerning proposed Foundation legislative changes. There was a mixed acceptance of the proposed changes by the new Castle County Farm Bureau. One third liked the changes, one third were unsure and the remaining third didn't like the changes.

**XII. Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on May 15, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert F. Garey  
Chairman